

CLAIMS

1. A device for conveying products along an endless conveying path, which device comprises a frame, an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which comprises links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots, load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at the upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and whose supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, as well as drive means for driving the conveying element, said drive means comprising a driving element and said conveying element comprising an element driven by said driving element, characterized in that the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.
2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the driven element comprises a friction surface for driving the conveying element through frictional contact between the drive means and the friction surface.
3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the driving element comprises a linear motor and the driven element comprises a reaction member for cooperation with the linear motor.
4. A device according to claim 3, characterized in that the linear motor extends on two opposite sides of the links.
5. A device according to claim 4, characterized in that the links are provided with at least one recess at the location of the linear motor.
6. A device according to claim 3, 4 or 5, characterized in that the linear motor extends on the bottom side of the links.
7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that adjacent links are interconnected via a fixable pin

member that is pivotable between two pivoted positions, with respect to which pin member the links can pivot, said pin member comprising a first pin member part having a first vertical central axis for pivoting movement of one of the adjacent links about the first pin member part, and a second pin member part having a second vertical central axis for pivoting movement of the other one of said adjacent links about the second pin member part, which first and second central axes are spaced some distance apart.

8. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that each link comprises two sublinks, which sublinks are pivotable with respect to each other about a horizontal pivot.

9. A device according to claim 8, characterized in that each load-carrying platform comprises two platform parts, which are pivotable with respect to each other about a horizontal pivot.

10. A device according to claim 8 and claim 9, characterized in that the horizontal pivot associated with two platform parts extends at least substantially straight above a horizontal pivot associated with two sublinks.

11. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that adjacent load-carrying platforms overlap under the associated supporting surfaces at the curved forward edges and the curved rearward edges.

12. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the length of at least one supporting surface is different from the lengths of the other supporting surfaces.

13. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one load-carrying platform comprises first adjusting means for adjusting the length of the associated supporting surface.

14. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the length of at least one link is different from

the length of the other links.

15. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one link comprises second adjusting means for adjusting the length of said at least one link.

5 16. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the proportion between the length and the width of the supporting surfaces is maximally 0.4, preferably maximally 0.3.

10 17. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface is free from any screening thereabove over at least part of the length of the common supporting surface.

15 18. A device according to any one of the claims 1-16, characterized in that a screening edge having a width of maximally 5.0 cm, more preferably maximally 3.0 cm, is provided above at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface over at least part of the length of the common supporting surface.

20 19. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a screening edge is present under at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface, at a distance of maximally 1.0 cm from the load-carrying platforms, over at least part of the length of the common supporting surface.

25 20. A device according to claim 18 or 19, characterized in that said at least one longitudinal side is located on the outer side of the endless conveying path.

21. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that each load-carrying platform is supported by at least three supports.